Rubber Planting Right.

428. ✻MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR (*Karunagapalli* cum *Karthikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of acres for which rubber planting right is allowed for Travancore in 1939—40 ;

(*b*) the number of applications received by Government for the cession of the planting right ;

(*c*) the number of persons to whom such right was ceded ;

(*d*) the highest and lowest number of acres allotted to a single individual ; and

(*e*) the total number of acres of plantations possessed by those to whom such allotments are made ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) 4,862·30 acres (as per calculation based on 1938 acreage).

(*b*) 8185.

(*c*) Information regarding the number of persons is not available. The total number of permits issued was 1960. In some cases more than one permit has been issued to one individual.

(*d*) The maximum area allotted to a single individual is 50 acres and the minimum area is 1 cent.

(*e*) The plantations possessed by the individual to whom the highest allotment was made are 580 acres in extent.

The plantations possessed by the individual to whom the lowest allotment was made are 20 cents in extent.

Paddy cultivation in Travancore.

429. ✻ MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action for increasing the extent of paddy cultivation in Travancore and for increasing the outpnt, and if so, the measures they have adopted ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture*) : The Department of Agriculture has been popularising improved and scientific methods of cultivation, such as the use of improved ploughs, selected and high-yielding seeds, better manures, etc. A number of demonstrations of the above methods are also being conducted every year on the lands belonging to actual cultivators in order to induce them and their neighbours to adopt similar practices.

A sub-committee of the Board of Agriculture made some investigations about ways and means to increase the area under paddy, and to augment its production.

A Lift Irrigation Committee with a full time Special Officer to carry out their decision is tackling the problem of increasing the output of paddy in the taluks of Kunnatnad and Parur by converting single crop lands into double crop lands with the aid of electrical power for pumping water for irrigation from the Periyar. The experimental cultivations so far done in this connection have been successful.

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar]

A number of depots for the stocking and sale of manures to agriculturists have been opened, and a vigorous food production drive is being carried on.

Chengannur-Parumala Road.

430. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Chengannur-Parumala road *via* Pandanad is under Government maintenance and if so, the annual rate of maintenance per mile ;

(*b*) whether the portion of the road between the Government M. P. School, Vanmazhi and the Parumala ferry is now fit for vehicle communication and if not, the reason for the same; and

(*c*) how long this part of the road has been unfit for vehicle communication ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : (*a*) Yes. Rs. 120 per mile for the last 4 miles ; Rs. 30 per mile for the remaining 2 miles.

(*b*) and (*c*) The portion except that from 3/8 to the end is fit for cart traffic. There are no culverts and the road is low and narrow with no surfacing in this latter portion.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether any portion of this amount of Rs. 120 was spent for that purpose during these years ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : Yes, Sir.

Thalayolapparampu Fish Market.

431. *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): With reference to the Thalayolapparampu Fish Market, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the date on which the site was acquired ;

(*b*) whether an estimate has been prepared for putting up a shed ;

(*c*) if so, when ; and

(*d*) the stage at which the proceedings thereon now stand ?

MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) 5-2-1116.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) In view of the answer to part (*b*) these questions do not arise.

Cashewnut Factories.

432. *MR. P. S. MUHAMED (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the wage rates in the several cashewnut factories in different places are different ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : Yes.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know the reason for this difference ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : The factories pay as they like to the coolies

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